

NHANES II Detailed Notes for Selected Variables

ELIGSTAT— Eligibility Status for Mortality Follow-Up

All NHANES II participants are included on the linked mortality file. NHANES II participants are defined as ineligible for mortality linkage if the amount of identifying data is insufficient to create a NDI submission record. ([See Tabular Data, Table 2](#)). The number of NHANES II participants who were ineligible for mortality follow-up is very small (n=3.)

MORTSTAT— Final Mortality Status

The *MORTSTAT* variable is NCHS's final determination of vital status and should be used as an outcome variable and to calculate survival. All NHANES II participants are assigned a vital status code (0 = assumed alive; 1 = assumed deceased). The ascertainment of vital status for NHANES II participants with matches to NDI records is based upon the NCHS recommended criteria determined by a calibration study.

MORTSRCE—Final Mortality Source

To assist in reviewing potential NDI matches, NCHS may order and review selected death certificates. The NDI only uses nine matching criteria to determine a potential match. Death certificate review allows for the comparison of additional information provided on the death certificate, such as industry and occupation, with data collected from NHANES II survey records. Comparing the death certificate and survey data assists NCHS in determining if a potential NDI match record correctly matches the NCHS survey participant.

Four sources of information are used to determine if a NHANES II survey participant is deceased:

- 1.) NDI probabilistic match
- 2.) Death certificate received and matched
- 3.) Social Security Administration (SSA) Death Master File
- 4.) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Enrollment File

Any combination of these sources can be used to identify NHANES II decedents.

1 NDI match only:

a probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
no death certificate was reviewed

2 NDI and death certificate:

a probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
a death certificate was reviewed and matched

3 Death certificate only:

no probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
a death certificate was reviewed and matched

4 SSA indication of death only:

no probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
no death certificate was reviewed
death information was only obtained from the Social Security Death Master File

5 CMS indication of death only:

no probabilistic NDI match record was accepted as a match
no death certificate was reviewed
death information was only obtained from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Enrollment File

Blank assumed alive

VITST92 - Vital status of NHANES II participants at the completion of the previous NHANES II mortality follow-up study

VITST92 contains the vital status assigned to each NHANES II participant at the completion of the previous NHANES II Mortality Follow-up Study, conducted in 1992. Each NHANES II participant was assigned a final vital status code (1 = assumed alive; 2 = assumed deceased; 3=unknown). Participants coded as assumed alive (1) were not found to be deceased as of December 31, 1992 in the previous mortality study. Participants coded as deceased (2) were identified as deceased by either NDI probabilistic match or by Social Security Death Master File match during the NHANES II Mortality Follow-up Study period. Participants coded as unknown (3) were considered ineligible for mortality follow-up.